Gulf Coast Visitor Center Suggested Paddling Routes

Things to consider when planning a trip:

- ■Recommended distance of 8-12 miles per day for experienced paddlers
- Paddling against tide and/or wind can be very strenuous
- Always check the weather forecast before heading out
- Sites within a one day paddle of the Gulf Coast VC fill fast (come with alternative routes)
- Obtain backcountry permit up to 24 hours in advance
- Winter months (December-April) tend to be cooler with less insects

Please remember to read and review the park publication

The Wilderness Trip Planner: A guide to camping in the coastal portions of

the Marjory Stonemen Douglas Wilderness

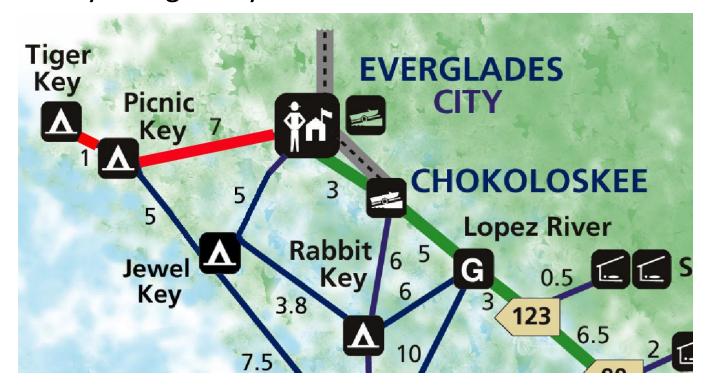
for more information on planning your trip.

Route List

One night / beginner trip:	
Picnic Key or Tiger Key	3
Two night trip:	
Lopez River to Rabbit Key, back to the Visitor Center	4
Two night trip:	
Picnic Key to Jewel Key then return to the Visitor Center	5
Three night trip:	
Lopez River to Pavilion Key to Rabbit Key, then return	6
Four or five night trip:	
Lopez River or Crooked Creek to Sweetwater to Mormon Key to Pavilion Key	7
Five night trip:	
Crooked Creek to Watson's to Pavilion Key to Jewel Key to Picnic Key & return	9

One night / beginner trip:

Picnic Key or Tiger Key

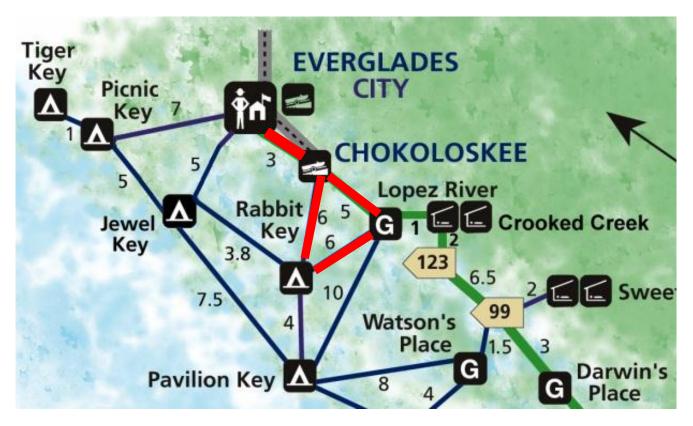


Because of the close proximity to the marked Indian Key Pass, Tiger Key and Picnic Key are two of the easier sites to locate. Leaving from the Gulf Coast Visitor Center, it is 7 miles to Picnic Key or 8 miles to Tiger Key. Both sites offer great views of the sunset over the Gulf of Mexico.

^{*}Note: plan trips in accordance with tides

Two night trip:

Lopez River to Rabbit Key, back to the Visitor Center.



Day 1: Lopez River – 8 miles

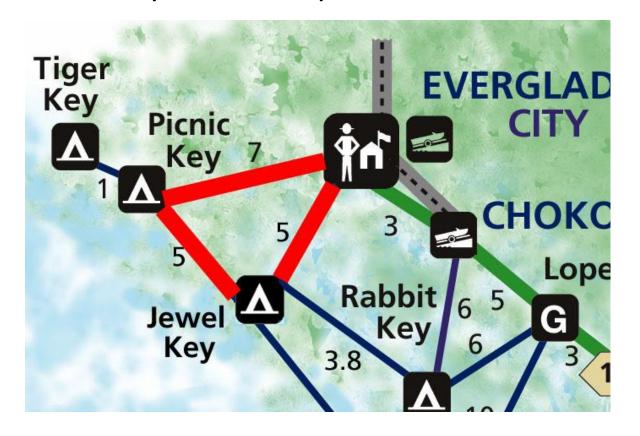
Day 2: Rabbit Key – 6 miles

Day 3: Visitor Center – 9 miles

This trip gives boaters a taste of the interior mangrove rivers as well as the Gulf beaches. The Lopez River campsite is a ground site located 8 miles from the visitor center. From Lopez River, travel 6 miles out to Rabbit Key, a beach site. Rabbit Key can be difficult to locate, so follow the chart closely. The return trip to the visitor center is 9 miles.

Two night trip:

Picnic Key to Jewel Key then return to the Visitor Center



Day 1: Picnic Key – 7 miles

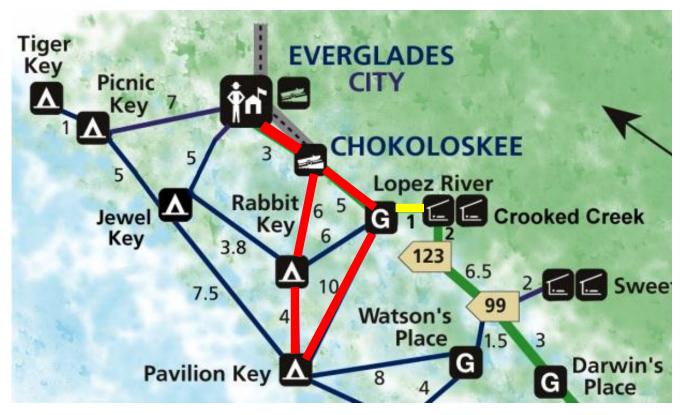
Day 2: Jewel Key – 5 miles

Day 3: Visitor Center – 5 miles

This two night beach trip has short distances to cover each day. Only 7 miles from the visitor center to Picnic Key, 5 miles from there to Jewel and another 5 gets you back to the visitor center. Remember camping at Jewel Key is only allowed in the designated camping area near the outhouse, NOT on the tiny Gulf side beach.

Three night trip:

Lopez River to Pavilion Key to Rabbit Key, then return



Day 1: Lopez River – 8 miles

Day 2: Pavilion Key – 10 miles

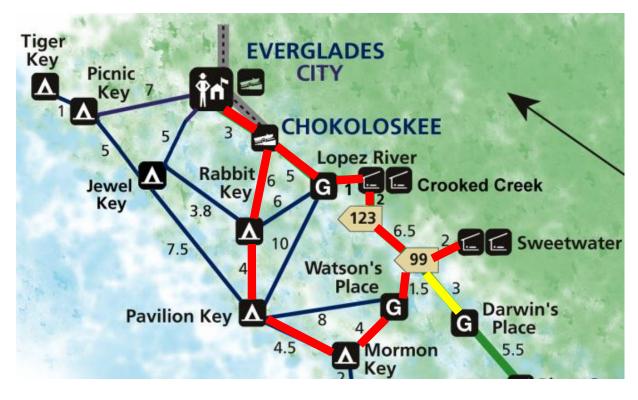
Day 3: Rabbit Key – 4 miles

Day 4: Visitor Center – 9 miles

You can add a little distance and the experience of camping on a chickee by staying at Crooked Creek instead of Lopez River. Pavilion Key sticks out into the Gulf of Mexico for spectacular views of the sunset.

Four or five night trip:

Lopez River or Crooked Creek to Sweetwater to Mormon Key to Pavilion Key



Day 1: Lopez River – 8 miles or Crooked Creek – 9 miles

Day 2: Sweetwater – 11.5 miles

Day 3: Mormon Key – 7.5 miles

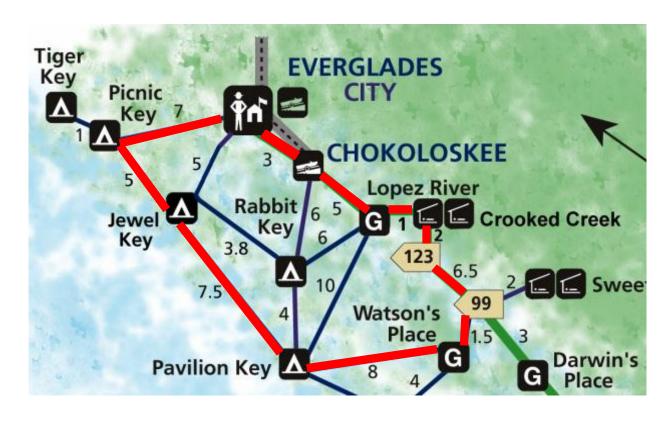
Day 4: Pavilion Key – 4.5 miles

Day 5: Visitor Center – 13 miles

This route can easily be extended into a 5 night trip. Stay an extra night at Pavilion or make the short hop over from Sweetwater to Darwin's Place and explore some of the nearby mangrove creeks.

Five night trip:

Crooked Creek to Watson's Place to Pavilion Key to Jewel Key to Picnic Key then return



Day 1: Crooked Creek - 9 miles

Day 2: Watson's Place - 10 miles

Day 3: Pavilion Key - 8 miles

Day 4: Jewel Key - 7.5 miles

Day 5: Picnic Key - 5 miles

Day 6: Visitor Center - 7 miles

This trip covers all the types of campsites: chickees, ground sites, and beach sites. The longest distance is from Crooked Creek to Watson's Place - 10 miles. Watson's Place is the old home site of the infamous Mr. Watson.